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FOREIGN NEWS ON APPLES

BARRELED APPLES' INFLUENCE ON THE PRICE OF BOXED APPLES IN GREAT BRITAIN

The past winter has been full of disappointment to the British fruit trade. Statistically there have been some very bright promises, especially in boxed apples from the Pacific Northwest, but actually these have not been fulfilled to date. It is not probable that they will be until barreled apples are entirely out of the way.

Everyone has observed that the storage stock of boxes in the United States has been favorable since early winter for an advance in prices. Arrivals of boxed apples since January 1st have not been excessive. As a matter of fact, between January 5th and March 23rd, Liverpool received only 8 carloads more than during the same period in 1926. Still, prices of Extra Fancy Winesaps have had a difficult time in reaching a point where they would realize the Washington shipper more than \$1.30 to \$1.40. Oregon Newtowns have also been disappointing, but this has been largely due to poor quality and condition, severe onslaughts of anthracnose decay at stem and blossom end being apparent in most cargoes. The mechanical wiping machines have also caused many small bruises that have added to the dullness of finish of the Newtown. These are not so apparent in the red apples.

The greatest influence on boxes apples,- especially the red varieties of boxed apples,- has been the super-abundance of barreled apples. The December lay-off in shipping caused some attractive prices on barrels in January, so that Virginian owners concluded that this was a good market in which to liquidate on heavy stocks of York Imperiala, Staymans and Winesaps,- many of which were demanding rapid disposal. Unprecedented winter exportation of barrels followed. Week after week during January, consignments to Great Britain have exceeded the 125,000 barrel mark. From January 5th to March 23rd the port of Liverpool received 190,000 more barrels than during the same period in 1926. The market was surfeited with barreled apples the entire time.

The condition of the fruit forced brokers to make rapid disposal. The result was that during February and early March quite attractive York Imperials and Winesaps could always be bought on the auction for from \$4.00 to \$4.50 per barrel, while there was an abundance of deteriorated fruit selling for from \$2.50 to \$4.00. Of course prices that realized growers from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per barrel eventually shut off consignments of York Imperials.

Since the first of March there has been a shortage of good Washington Winesaps in the North of England and Scotland. Small arrivals started to reglize Washington shippers as much as \$1.75 per box net shipping point. But Virginia continued to unload her Winesaps, many of which arrived in an attractive condition, and sold for from \$4.50 to \$5.35 per barrel. This precluded the disposal of any large quantity of Washington apples at the equivalent of \$10.00 per barrel, regardless of how attractive they appeared.

It is often said that barreled apples and boxed apples are not competitive, but the British market is a striking example of how competitive they may be when the apples packed in barrels have a reasonably bright, attractive appearance when offered for sale in a country where most of the people are looking for apples that retail at 8¢ per pound instead of 16¢, - the price asked when Washington Winesaps return an equivalent of \$1.75 per box to the Wenatchee and Yakima shipper.

EDWIN SMITH,
Specialist in Foreign Markets.

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